

- (v) The basic import duty on pulp and waste paper has been kept at 5%.
- (vi) The basic customs duty on imported paper has been increased from 30% to 35%.
- (vii) The Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute is assisting the paper industry through research and development in areas like chemical recovery system, raw material studies, energy conservation etc.

**Development of backward and adivasi areas in Maharashtra**

332. SHRI SURYABHAN PATTIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to implement a centrally-sponsored scheme for development of backward and adivasi populated areas of Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount earmarked for this purpose during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) In June, 1988 Government of India announced the Growth Centre Scheme in order to promote industrialization. Under this scheme 71 growth centres are to be developed throughout the country endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication and banking, etc. enabling them to attract industries. The growth centres to be developed are selected on the basis of a combined criteria of population, area and industrial backwardness.

To set up the growth centres the Central Govt, would provide an assistance of Rs. 10 crore each in terms of equity with the remaining fund requirement to be arranged by the State Government concerned.

Given below are details of the five growth centres approved to be set up in Maharashtra alongwith amount of Central assistance released so far:—

*Growth Centres in Maharashtra*

(Rupees in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of the Centre	Central assistance released
1.	Akola	950
2.	Chandrapur	600
3.	Dhule	450
4.	Nanded	750
5.	Ratnagiri	440

(c) The total 9th Plan (1997-98 — 2001-2002) outlay earmarked for the Growth Centre Scheme is Rs. 307 crores.

**Sick Industrial units in Maharashtra**

333. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large, medium and small industrial units in Maharashtra which was sick on 31.1.2000, alongwith their number in each category;

(b) the amount already spent on sick industrial units in each category; and

(c) the steps being taken to make such units profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report, as at the end of March, 1999, the position of industry sickness in the State of Maharashtra and outstanding bank credit is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Category	No. of Units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI-sick	13373	510.39
2. Non-SSI sick/Weak	495	2635.79
TOTAL:	13868	3146.18

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

**Export of Chilly from Andhra Pradesh**

334. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spices Board has not given adequate attention to the chilly exprots from Andhra Pradesh;